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Jail provision asked for CIA bigs

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WASHINGTON—Sen. David Durenberger (R-Minn.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, wants to send supervisors at the Central Intelligence Agency to prison for up to 30 years if subordinates such as Jonathan Pollard, a convicted former Navy analyst, turn over secrets to Israel.

Durenberger told reporters yesterday that such a stiff penalty would force intelligence supervisors to do a better job of safeguarding national security, possibly felling people such as Pollard.

A CIA spokeswoman had no comment on Durenberger's proposal. Pollard gave suitcase loads of highly classified documents to Israel for a year before he was noticed by his colleagues.

Durenberger has not yet introduced any legislation to punish bosses at the CIA and military intelligence organizations but an aide said the Senate panel is conducting a review of U.S. counterintelligence activities and the report will include recommendations for tightening security.

Navy blamed

Justice Department officials said they have never heard such a proposal before. But they noted that Navy security apparently suffered a breakdown in the Pollard case.

"The Navy was lax," one official noted. "Pollard's behavior was erratic and he was asking for material he did not need. That should have been a tipoff."

Although Pollard was an antiterrorism expert specializing in the Caribbean and U.S., he was gathering information on Soviet-made weapons used by Libya, Egypt and Jordan.

The State Department and the Justice Department have been feuding over the size of the Israeli spy ring.

State Department officials said Monday the U.S. has "no evidence of any espionage ring involving Israeli officials" other than the four unindicted co-conspirators named by a federal grand jury last week. They included an Israeli colonel, Aviem Sella, since promoted to brigadier general, and Rafi Eitan, a long-time top Israeli intelligence operative who also received a major government promotion.

Justice Department officials contended, however, that the spy investigation is continuing and that it is too early to rule out wider Israeli involvement. Durenberger agreed, saying that "no conclusion" has been reached on the extent of Israeli involvement.